A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 15. 1709.

I Am for the present diverted from the Work I have prepar'd, of exposing the Crimes of some of our Clergy, by the more pressing Occasions of the Publick in Matters of Trade; but before I quit it, I must give the Reader one Letter, which I receiv'd upon this Subject, since what I had said in my last; and which I suppose by some Circumstances to come from a Clergy-Man, and a very valuable Reverend Person.

Mr. REVIEW,

I Am sorry in all your Censure of the Author of the Rehearsal, you have not yet discover'd his Drift in all his Papers, and that while he pretends friendly to vindicate our Church, his Design is but to expose and wicken the Church of England, to which as now by Law Establish'd he is a profess'd Enemy. It is evident to considering Persons, that he puts you upon this Work, and thinks to force you to fall upon the Clergy, on purpose to render the Church of England odious and contemptible? Now, you will see that, and be render therefore of exposing the Follies of the Clergy; it is too true, and good Men regret it much, that we are remiss in our Discipline, and that some of our Clergy are too loose and debonair in their Manners; but it is to be hop'd, a Time may come, when the House of GOD shall be purg'd. I hope, there are a great many good Men with them, and I thank you for the Respect you profess to such; and if you would spare the Rest for their Sakes, you would not expose such an Excess of Charity.

Your Friend unknown, &c.

I think this Letter very modeſt and very ingenuous; and tho' I do not know the Perſon, I ſhall ſhow a great Regard to his Motion; yet I muſt crave leave to differ from him in this, That the Satyr upon the vicious Clergy at all concerns the vertuous, pious, reverend Remainder, of which as I did before, ſo I do again acknowledge, there are a great Number now in the Church. But the Deſign of a Satyr upon the Vicious is to rouze up and excite thoſe Gentlemen, whoſe Right it is, and have Power in their Hands, that they would reſtore the Diſcipline of the Church to its uninterrupted Exerciſe, and that they would remove the ſcandalous, the ignorant, and the Inſufficient from the Altar; but I cannot but think, that expoſing the drunken, the lewd, the ſwearing, the blaſphemous Bullies of the Church is no more a Reproach, than it was a Reproach upon the Eleven Diſciples, when our Lord ſaid, one of them was a Devil; or than it was ſcandalous in the reſt of the Apoſtles to call him the Son of Perdition, *Acts* 3. ... *No Man is concern'd in a Charge of Vice, but the Vicious; no Man is touch'd in a Scandal, but the Scandalous.* And if any Clergyman complains of my ſaying there are Drunkards, or Whore-Maſters, or Swearers among them; is it not moſt natural to ſay, *Why are you angry, Sir?* Are you ONE of them? Does the Garment fit you? —Is the Picture drawn there your Likeneſs? —If it be not, why are you angry? Why are you mov'd, if you are not touch'd?

But after all we ſhall ſee, whether the Gentleman above be in the right; I ſhall therefore leave the Diſcourſe for the preſent. If the *Rehearſal* moves further to urge the Publication of Particulars, he certainly covets and drives at reproaching the Church, and expoſing the Clergy; if he does not, he will reſt ſatisfy'd with what has been ſaid.

MISCELLANEA.

I Thought to have delay'd any Diſcourſes of Trade till the Beginning of the next Month, when the next Volume being deſign'd to begin, I purpos'd to dedicate one Part of this Work wholly to Trade; but as I ſee the Parliament wholly taken up upon Improvements, eſpecially relating to the Trade of *Scotland*, but in general of *Britain*, I cannot help ſpeaking my Mind on ſome main Points, which are like to take up ſome of our Debates; and tho' in this I ſhall be ſomething irregular, and muſt neceſſarily go over ſome of theſe Things again, yet I muſt be born with in that Tautology, for the Sake of evident and publick Utility.

For ſtating therefore what I purpoſe to diſcourſe of at preſent, tho' ſummarily, and in general I ſhall lay them down under the following Heads.

1. The Affair of Paper-Credit, circulating Bills, and enlarging or extending Credit, with ſome Enquiry into the Advantage of publick Credit, and how it might be extended in this Nation.

2. The Trade to *Africa*, in which I ſhall ſhall ſpeak to two grand Enquiries, 1. Whether that Trade is uſeful to *England*, and neceſſary to be preſerv'd or no? And 2. If it be, how to be ſo eſtabliſhed as to be render'd moſt uſeful, whether in an exclusive Company, or an open Trade.

3. The Caſe of opening a Trade with *France*, whether it ought or ought not to be done at this Time? And here the *Virginia* Merchants muſt excuſe me, if I take the Freedom to give my Thoughts on their late Petition to the *Houſe of Commons*.

4. The Fiſhing Trade in *Scotland*, with the Affair of Drawbacks and Encouragements; in which, if I ſhould not altogether agree with ſome Gentlemen, who ſo warmly inſiſt upon their Allowances upon Fiſh cur'd with Salt imported before the 1ſt of *May*, and which paid no Duty; I hope, thoſe Gentlemen will excuſe me, for the Sake

Sake of other Inſtances I ſhall give of my meaning well to the Trade of *North Britain*.

I ſhall diſcourſe on all theſe, but in a ſummary Way at this Time, being as I noted above to go over them all again, when I come to diſcourſe of the ſeveral Branches of Trade in particular.

I begin with the Affair of Publick Credit, or more particularly, Paper Credit, &c. It is not to be ſuppos'd, that in my Diſcourſe on this I mean any thing elſe, than the preſent extended Length of Paper-Credit now Eſtabliſh'd between the Bank and the Exchequer.

If I was to write Panegyricks, I could draw a Map here of the preſent Poſture of the Exchequer and Bank of *England*, and compare them, or draw a Parallel between them and the Finances of *France*, Town-Houſe of *Paris*, &c. I do confeſs, it has ſomething miraculous to think, how the Finances, or Exchequer, or Banks in *France* have kept up any Reputation at all, under ſo many publick Diſtreſſes, when we ſee our Bank ſo endanger'd, and our Publick Credit ſo eaſily ſhock'd, as at the laſt Allarm of an Invaſion, which tho' in it ſelf it could not have been ſo, ſo as to be fatal, nor any way have affected our Funds, yet had the Enemy landed, and the Country Gone of the People gone &c. the Blow to Publick Credit had been very terrible.

To enquire into the Cauſes of this would be too tedious; but a few are theſe.

1. And principally the Pique of Parties here, who really allarm the People politickly on purpoſe to drive them into Convulſions——— I have nothing to do to name Perſons, nor ſhould I ever have ſuſpected a certain Gentleman, if he had not made ſome faint Attempts to throw it off, by which ſome ill-natur'd People ſaid, he had made the better Side the worſe.

And here, Gentlemen, you may ſee the Benefit of National Union and Peace at home, *France* being all of a Piece, and their National Intereſt the ſame in every hand, they can maintain their publick Credit under the moſt terrible Convulſions imaginable; *Hocſted*, *Turin*, *Barcelona*, *Ramellies*, *Oudenard*, *Liſle*, any one of them had been a Blow to us, would have ſtagnated our Caſh, ſtop'd our Funds, ſtabb'd our Credit, and thrown our Bank into a Fit of an Appoplexy——— The Reaſon is plain, they have no divided Intereſt, no ſecret Enviers at the Government, all their united Endeavours obey the Voice of the publick Safety, and they keep up Credit without Funds, when we have ſometimes Funds without Credit.

2. Liberty, tho' 'tis a Jewel not to be ſold or pawn'd, yet has ſome little Difficulties in it, and this is one; That upon every Hurry we can with more Freedom fly in the Face of publick Credit, than they can; in *France* any Singularity of that Kind would not be reſented only, but puniſh'd; Now, tho' this is nothing to imitate, yet it is a Reaſon, why they are not ſo puſh'd at upon Extremities, the abſolute Dominion of the Monarch commanding a more ſubjected acquieſcing Temper.

3. The Stock-jobbing Humour in *England* is calculated to this End, and has been the Occaſion of it; *viz.* That we are too much apt to be ſurpriz'd in *England*, and to run up and run down upon the leaſt Turn of Affairs; whereas, if People would be a little eaſie, the Hurry would be immediately over, and Things return to their own Channel; 'tis the Fright, not the Subſtance of the Fear.

It is plain, had the *French* landed in *Scotland*, nay, had they reduc'd *Scotland* entirely, or ſhould they do it now, *which I think there is no Fear of*; yet all our publick Funds, our Banks, our Stocks were juſt as good as before; and how could it be otherwiſe? Is not the Nation entirely and univerſally embark'd in them? If the Nation ſtands, they ſtand; if the Nation does not ſtand, then nothing we have is our own, nor is it ſafer in our own keeping than in the publick Funds: But are not all

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